

<b>Article details: 2015-0135</b>	
Title	Patterns of skin disease in a Canadian prison population: a retrospective study
Authors	Geneviève Gavigan MASc MD, Alana McEvoy MD, James Walker MD
<b>Reviewer 1</b>	Dr. Tim Lee
Institution	BC Cancer Agency, Cancer Control Research Program, Vancouver, BC
General comments (author response in bold)	<p>Comment 1: There have been very few studies on skin diseases in the incarcerated population. Among these studies, only one of them was conducted in North America, in Taxes, USA. This study acquired the Canadian data by examining the common referred skin condition cases among the male inmates in the Eastern Ontario institutions. Analyses were done separately for patients examined in-person and by store-forward teledermatology.</p> <p>The paper organizes well and it is easy to read. The data and analyses are interesting and fit the scope of the journal well.</p> <p><b>Response 1: We thank the reviewer for these comments.</b></p> <p>Comment 2: However, my major concern is that the paper does not provide sufficient evidences to support its third conclusion: "it could be of value to move the dermatologist to various correctional institutions, rather than moving the inmates, in order to provide higher quality and safer service at a lower cost." There is no data in the paper to support in-person examinations provide higher quality care than teledermatologist assessments. On the contrary, lines 188-189 state that "the most common dermatologic conditions treated in our study would likely be amenable to teledermatology, thereby decreasing costs and increasing security." I suggest reporting the breakdown of in-person, teledermatology, in-person-followed-by-teledermatology, teledermatology-followed-by-in-person visits in Table 3. Perhaps by analysing these data, the third conclusion can be substantiated.</p> <p><b>Response 2: Thank you for these valid concerns. To address this, the third conclusion was removed.</b></p> <p>Comment 3: Standardize the numbering of the tables, using either Roman numerals or Arabic numerals.</p> <p><b>Response 3: Thank you for catching this mistake. The tables are all numbered with Arabic numerals.</b></p>
<b>Reviewer 2</b>	Dr. Emilie Sbidian
Institution	AP-HP, Hôpital Henri Mondor, Dermatology, Créteil, France
General comments (author response in bold)	<p>Comment 1: The objective of the authors was to investigate the most common skin diseases affecting male inmates in prisons in Canada.</p> <p>This study is a descriptive one. Because of several limitations, which were well explained in the manuscript, the authors could not calculate any prevalence of dermatologic disease. I do think this is an interesting paper but not in its current form.</p> <p><b>Response 1: We thank the reviewer for these comments.</b></p> <p>Comment 2: Perhaps to focus on teledermatology as an option to cover the unmet medical need of inmate population: is the treatment prescribed faster in the "teledermatology" group?</p> <p><b>Response 2: Thank you for this comment. This was addressed in the Explanation and Comparison with Other Studies subsection of the Interpretation.</b></p>